

AFFIDAVIT OF WITNESS BATARSHIN, AN EYE-  
WITNESS OF THE KHASSAN LAKE INCIDENT OF  
FEBRUARY 26, 1946.

EX. 756

I, military investigator for the U.S.S.R. at the International Military Tribunal in Tokyo colonel of the Judicial Corps, Dolitski having duly warned of the responsibility for giving false evidence under art. 95 of the Criminal code of the R.S.F.S.R. examined the following witness, who stated:

Batarshin-Gilfan Abubikerevitch born in 1914, in the Donez Basin at the Golobovski mine. Military rank-major, hero of the Soviet Union. Address: Moscow, Bolshaya Kaluzskaya ulitsa 28 flat 47.

A signed paper of the witness being warned of responsibility for giving false evidence, is attached to the minutes of the examination. In the period 1936-38 inclusive I served as section commander of 59 frontier detachment, that guarded the section of the Manchurian Soviet state frontier which included the Lake Hassen area.

From July 29 till August 12, 1938, I took part in military operations to defend the Soviet territory against Japanese armed forces, that unexpectedly attacked the Soviet frontier patrol on hills Zaozernaya and Bezjimjannaya.

Earlier on July 15, 1938, while being in the frontier patrol directly on the hill Zaozernaya I personally observed the Japanese troops concentrating in the vicinity of the Hill Zaozernaya.

In the course of 10-12 days troops and guns were brought up in trucks toward the state frontier in front of hill Zaozernaya. In my estimate in this section there were concentrated by the Japanese about 600-700 soldiers; two Japanese Batteries were mounted on each of the two hills. To these hills shells were carried daily by soldiers; the shells were passed from hand to hand as the hills did not allow any motor transportation.

At that time there were only 30 frontier guards on hill Zaozernaya. There were no other Soviet troops stationed even in the vicinity.

The concentration of Japanese forces in the area of hill Zaozernaya pursued the object of attacking the Soviet territory; not only was the concentration of troops and mounting of artillery by the Japanese itself a proof of it, but the

direct declarations of the Japanese command, made through their emissaries, as well.

Twice during this period local Manchurians were sent to our frontier guard detachment by the Japanese command and they brought letters from the commander of the Japanese detachment in which an immediate withdrawal of the Soviet frontier guards from the hill Zaozernaya was demanded. In the letters it was pointed out that hill Zaozernaya was to be occupied by the Japanese troops. A threat to start military operations against the Soviet troops in case they did not withdraw from hill Zaozernaya was added to it.

The Soviet frontier guards did not give any reply to the demands of the Japanese Command and remained on hill Zaozernaya on their territory.

On July 29, 1938, at 16 hrs. the Japanese troops suddenly attacked a neighbouring frontier guard patrol 11 men strong. There were about 100 Japanese soldiers armed with rifles, medium and light machine guns. Having attacked the frontier guards, the Japanese opened fire. The battle was taking place at a distance of 700 metres from us.

The commander of our outpost watched the battle and sent me with four frontier guards to help. Having taken a light machine gun, I approached the place of the battle and saw the following scene. All the Soviet frontier guards were lying wounded, unable to put up resistance; whereas the Japanese, with blades drawn, slashed the wounded and tried to drag some of them away on to their territory.

I immediately opened fire after which the Japanese started running towards their territory, leaving on their way corpses and wounded frontier guards.

On the battlefield I found five corpses of our frontier guards whose bodies were slashed with blades from head to foot. The other six frontier guards were badly wounded and all of them had slashed wounds.

On the night of July 31st 1938 approximately at midnight large Japanese forces attacked hill Zaozernaya that was guarded by our frontier guard patrol.

The Soviet frontier guards had given no reasons for an armed conflict either in the abovementioned Japanese attack against hill Bezimiannaya or in this case.

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In general I don't know of a single case of trespassing the state frontier by the Soviet frontier guards during the entire period of my service in the 59 frontier guard detachment.

According to my observations the hill Zaozernaya was attacked by approximately one infantry regiment of the Japanese forces with a simultaneous use of artillery and mortar fire.

At the moment of the attack of the Japanese forces there were about 30 frontier guards; besides there was a platoon of field forces also 30 men strong.

Until dawn we held hill Zaozernaya. During this time we suffered losses; 15-20 men killed and the rest wounded I personally, was slightly wounded and remained on duty until our units arrived.

We left the hill Zaozernaya at 6 o'clock in the morning. At that time I watched the Japanese soldiers come onto the crest of the hill and wave blades.

In the following days the Japanese soldiers were building fortifications on our territory: barbed wire entanglement, artillery and machine gun defended posts trenches, a net of firing trenches.

From August 6th 1938 our units launched an offensive and by August 12, 1938 had driven the Japanese off our territory and stopped on the former state frontier.

Of the frontier guards, who together with me defended hill Zaozernaya, I remember Ivan Chernopjatko a major at present, living in Moscow and Peter Tereshkha, former chief of the frontier guard outpost, whose section included hill Zaozernaya. He also lives in Moscow and, as I have heard, has the rank of lieutenant-colonel.

I want to add that in the period during which the Japanese concentrated their forces toward the hill Zaozernaya I observed that the Japanese turned the inhabitants out of the village of Hamoka which is situated at the foot of hill Zaozernaya on the territory of Manchuria and stationed their troops in it. It was approximately between July 20-25, 1938.

I have nothing else to state.

My testimony has been written down and read to me, to which I sign my name.

G. BATARSHIN.

Military Investigator of the Prosecution for the U.S.S.R.  
at the International Military Tribunal in Tokyo.

Colonel of the Judicial Corps Dolitzki

C E R T I F I C A T E

Moscow.

February 26, 1946.

I undersigned Batarshin, Ghilzan Abukumarevich pledge to tell the truth in my testimony in the case of War Criminals.

I am duly warned of responsibility for giving false testimony provided for by Article 95 of the Criminal Code of the RSFSR.

This certificate is signed by me in the presence of Colonel of Justice Dolitzki.

G. BATARSHIN.

The certificate is taken by:

Colonel of Justice DOLITZKY,  
Military Attorney for the USSR in the International  
Military Tribunal in Tokyo.

I, KAPLAN, V.A., hereby certify that I am thoroughly conversant with the Russian and English languages; and the above is a correct and true translation of the indicated Document.

Signature /s/ V. Kaplan